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EXAMINER

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BY - Hoshi

SIRS:

Please amend the above as follows:

Claims 1-16, cancel without prejudice

Add claims 17-39 appearing in the Appendix attached hereto

REMARKS

Claims 17-39 are in the application replacing claims 1-16 which were cancelled to expedite prosecution. The new claims were drafted to be more in line with US practice. Entry and allowance thereof is solicited.

A fee calculation sheet is attached wherein the filing fee accounts for the changes made by the preliminary amendment.

Respectfully,

M. KOJIMA

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5 Nov 01

I hereby certify that the correspondence upon which this notice is placed is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date set forth below.
MOONRAY KOJIMA, ATTORNEY

DATE:

11/5/01

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT